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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Phone: (703) 351-7676

21 June 1985

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Ms. Meg Greenfield
Editor of Editorial Page
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Ms. Greenfield:

In its lead news article on 12 May 1985, THE WASHINGTON POST alleged that the CIA had "an indirect connection" to the 8 March 1985 car bombing in Beirut which killed more than 80 people and wounded many others.

Before the story was published, the CIA categorically denied to the POST reporters any involvement, direct or indirect, in the bombing. Moreover, in a statement immediately after the story appeared, the Agency publicly denied any connection with this event.

The United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) investigated the POST story and inter alia reported to the full House on 12 June that:

> "The committee's review has uncovered no evidence that any U.S. intelligence agency - any U.S. Government agency - has encouraged or participated in any terrorist activity in Lebanon. Further, the committee was able to discover no evidence that any U.S. intelligence agency had foreknowledge of the March 8 bombing outside the residence of Sheik Hussein Fadlallah.
>
> Without addressing the specifics of the allegations raised in connection with this deplorable terrorist event, the committee states that its review of relevant documents and files and its interview of appropriate government officials leads to the conclusion that no U.S. Government complicity, direct or indirect, can be established with respect to the March 8 bombing in Beirut."

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The CIA regrets that the POST ignored our denial of any involvement in the 8 March incident in Beirut and that its article gave the American public and the rest of the world the totally false impression that the U.S. Government was involved in terrorist activity. This misleading theme has been picked up by a number of other journalists as fact and has even been cited by the Shiite terrorists as one of the motives for hijacking TWA flight 847. We believe it is imperative that the POST promptly correct the record and bring to your readers' attention the HPSCI's refutation of Agency involvement in the 8 March bombing. As Secretary Shultz said in commenting on the POST's story, "If the CIA denies something, it's denied."

Sincerely,

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

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Enclosure

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